Dear Jim,

8/20/74

The intensity of my ~~angy~~ negative reaction to PH's letter and draft disturb me more than what I object to in his entire course of behavior. In turn this becomes even more disturbing because over the years I have come to develop some faith in my instinctive reactions and more of that must be involved. You have your own way of evaluating what comes off the top of my head.

Paul should find this letter so offensive he will want nothing to do with me. It is quite obvious that I could have told him I want ~~him~~ nothing more to do with him. The aid he provides does not begin to approximate its cost. And there simply is no way of getting around his stubbornness. However, one of the hunches I have is that he has some emotional problems, so giving him the option is to do more than save his face. It helps him feel better about himself.

I do feel that an ego problem is one.

He has done fine work. He is bright. He has received no recognition at all. He may have no awareness, but this kind of situation does present emotional difficulties.

That is not the same as recognizing that he has a right to unethical behavior or that either of us should become victims of his needs. Nor is it to say that he has a license to jeopardize the present possibilities. From TV to the Congress you are aware of my initiatives and that they are, if no more, not discouraging and much more encouraging than I can recall.

(Here let me add to what I told you of my visit ~~from~~ to the Post. it is working well. John appears to have decided that his best-suited man was on vacation. Don Baker returned from vacation today and made an arrangement to come here next week. It was, slight as it is, the day's only encouragement.)

I should have asked you to say nothing about my yesterday afternoon's effort if only because no mention ~~as~~ could help in any way and loose talk could interfere. I'm sorry I did not ask you not to mention it to Bud.

With Paul, I can make no real sense out of it. Other than I have told him. That is not a full or satisfactory explanation to me. And when these delicate situations come up, what I can't be certain of does tend to disturb me. Especially when for the first time in years we are close to a possibility of accomplishment. Any single foolish move, any that can be misunderstood, any that is in any sense ill-advised, can be ruinous to all this long and not easy effort. The number of these that have been ruined over the years by the bull-headed and wrong is beyonf remembering.

There are these realities I have to face: Paul is unyieldingly stubborn, Prussian, as I told him, and really unthinking about the entire matter; and I am carrying to heavy a load or emotional strains to permit even one more only. I now find that these make it not only difficult for me to put my mind to work but make me apprehensive of the kind of work I would then do. And if I never get another single paper I have enough work in hand to give me an output at this late stage of my life at least as great as the average writer produces. Getting more information weighs little in my personal scale of values, no matter how welcome I might find any worthwhile bit.

Paul is exceptionally bright. He has been kind in many ways, as I think I also have been. If he is helpful, to put it mildly, the cost to me is greater than the value received and much greater than I am willing to pay.

I am serious. I will not open any letter from him that was mailed after the date on which he can receive the enclose I wrote today and will mail tomorrow. I do have the concerns I mention to him and others than I decided not to mention. But it should be obvious to you that among other things he had no way of knowing if we had approached the Nation. The use of ancillary rights to books are vested in the author and the publisher, not "some one off the street" who has his own ideas. He didn't even ask. I ask myself why not? He had no way of knowing whether we were seeking or had made arrangements for commercial publication or what plans any publishers may have had, at the time, and [illegible].

Of the many other things in my mind I add but one: he had to know that this could jeopardize me. He did it with either that knowledge or no concern for the possibility. Either, to me, is too much. If it is only insensitivity, given my present circumstances and the work I want to do and think I should, that also is too much. The easiest and I think the wisest course is to see to it that there are no repetitions. Best,